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3 February 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Panama: [Former President Arnulfo Arias is continuing to seek political support from various groups and may be gaining some acceptance as the Panamanian leader most likely to resolve the current impasse.]

[Arias would prefer to be voted into the presidency in the May elections, but is probably prepared to attempt a coup if he concludes it is the only way he can regain power.]

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[Arias is negotiating for support from Panama's wealthy Jewish community, which has primarily economic relations with the ruling elite.]

[Arias has shown that he retains the wide public support with which he has twice won election only to be ousted--the last time by the National Guard. His apparently moderate stand on the canal issue does not seem to have hurt him politically, probably because of his strong nationalistic record. The Panamanian elite resent his appeal to the masses, but seem sufficiently impressed over his chances for a third election so that some members are discussing possible deals with him.]

[Several Communist leaders were reported in recent months to have solicited Arnulfo Arias' help in political or coup plans, but appear to distrust him now.]

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Kenya: A struggle for power appears to be shaping up between Prime Minister Kenyatta and Minister of Home Affairs Oginga Odinga, who has long had financial ties with Moscow and Peiping.

Odinga's plotting against Kenyatta is described by the US Embassy in Nairobi as having reached "alarming proportions." Odinga, a Luo, is seeking to increase his influence in Kenyatta's Kikuyu tribe among ex - Mau-Mau fighters and youth groups, as well as in the Kamba tribe, which is strong in Kenya's security forces.

The embassy believes Kenyatta, who is awake to Odinga's maneuvers, might emerge stronger than ever if he moves fast enough. Serious splits could develop, however, in the Kikuyu- Luo- Kamba tribal alliance which makes up Kenyatta's party, and in the security forces.

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NOTES

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Indonesia: The Djakarta government has begun to take over certain British enterprises which have been seized or harassed by labor unions, mostly Communist-led, since 18 January. Djakarta's action to extend "government supervision" to those enterprises, reported by the press on 2 February, has been anticipated by the British for months but may have been accelerated by Communist activity. The enterprises presumably affected--the Shell oil company, at least 44 companies and agricultural estates in Java, and some in North Sumatra--constitute a significant proportion of total British investment in Indonesia.

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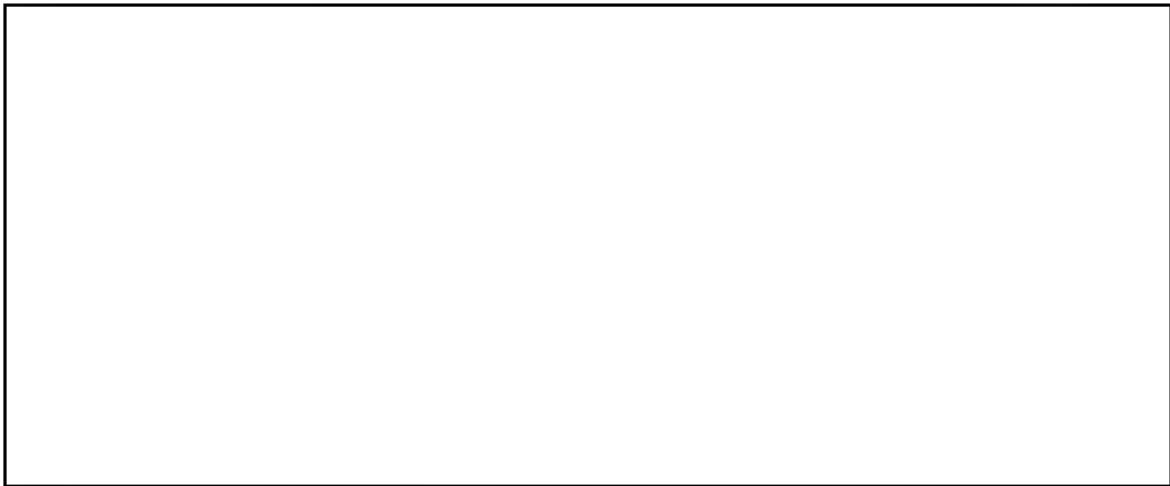
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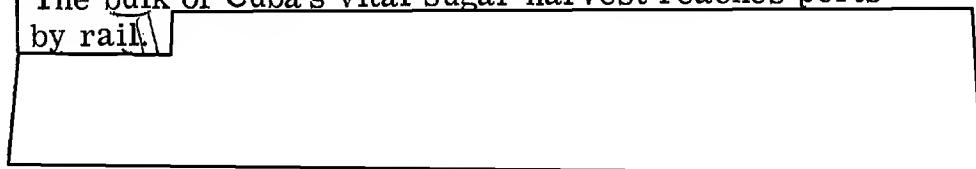
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France-Cuba: A French company has concluded a contract to sell 20 modern, diesel-electric locomotives to the Cuban Government,

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The Cubans have been trying to buy locomotives in West Europe because shortages of parts and equipment have seriously affected Cuban rail transportation. The bulk of Cuba's vital sugar harvest reaches ports by rail.



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